

May 12, 2022 – EMPIRE VILLAGE COUNCIL WORK SESSION

The meeting was called to order at the Empire Township Hall and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Davis at 7:00 p.m. Upon a roll call, Council members Bacon, Barr, Chase, Davis, Dye, Palmer and Rademacher were present. Clerk Smith and Zoning Administrator Grobbel were also present.

CLOSED SESSION – Motion by Bacon, support by Rademacher to adjourn to closed session per MCL 15.268(d) to consider purchase or lease of real property. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Bacon, Barr, Chase, Davis, Dye, Palmer, Rademacher. Nays: None. MOTION PASSED. Meeting was adjourned to closed session at 7:05 and reconvened at 7:10.

Motion by Bacon, support by Barr to cease further action or expense on legal agreement for grant funding for a property feasibility study. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Bacon, Barr, Chase, Davis, Dye, Palmer, Rademacher. Nays: None. MOTION PASSED.

CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA – Bacon added permission to act on GDL Garlic Mustard Program as it is time sensitive under New Business #3a. Davis added approval of corrected minutes of 3-22-22 as Old Business #3.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA - Motion by Rademacher, support by Dye to approve the agenda as amended. Upon a voice vote, MOTION PASSED.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS – None.

COMMUNICATIONS – None.

PRESENTATION – John Collins made a request for a letter of support from the Village Council for Empire Associates to submit for grant funding. He described the current ownership and provided photos of the existing barn structure. The state grant is the Revitalization and Placemaking Program (RAP) by MEDC. It consists of 50/50 funding by developer and MEDC. Possible uses were described but have not been finalized. Davis noted that while action was not noted on the agenda, it is needed prior to the next meeting. **Motion by Dye, support Rademacher to have the Village Council write a letter of support for a RAP grant application.** Bacon will write the letter for Davis to sign. **ROLL CALL: Ayes: Bacon, Barr, Chase, Davis, Dye, Palmer, Rademacher. Nays: None. MOTION PASSED.**

PUBLIC COMMENT ON PRESENTATION – None.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS – Zoning Administrator's report and Revenue & Expenditure Reports by Fund were received. Grobbel noted that there is increased interest in short-term rentals and the current gas station plans include total removal of existing structures with a possible lack of gas sales/purchase for a period.

COUNCIL MEMBER/COMMITTEE REPORTS – Written reports from the Water, Tree and Streets Committees were received.

OLD BUSINESS

GROBBEL ENVIRONMENTAL SOUTH BAR LAKE TESTING – John Collins reported that the Township has agreed to pay ½ the cost of this proposal. The Council will consider awarding

the contract at the 5/24 Regular Session, not to exceed \$2950, and will accept reimbursement for 50% of this cost from Empire Township or South Bar Lake Association. Grobbel noted that he will add a presentation to the Township of the results.

WATER HOOKUP FEES – Water Committee recommendations were reviewed and discussed. Discussion included the current practice of charging one rate regardless of the actual cost to install. There were questions about whether Gosling Czubak or Michigan Rural Water Association may assist and utilize methods/formulas for setting these rates. There were numerous questions about the numbers used in the information provided. Discussion included all the increasing costs and whether to add any additional road borings to the CIP. It was noted that as an Enterprise Fund, profit is not allowed. There was consensus that this be returned to the committee for further consideration.

3-22-22 MINUTES CORRECTION – Motion by Dye, support by Rademacher to approve the corrections to the Roll Call vote on Ordinance 137 Cross Connection as presented in the minutes included in the 5-13-22 Work Session packet. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Bacon, Barr, Chase, Davis, Dye, Palmer, Rademacher. Nays: None. MOTION PASSED.

NEW BUSINESS

PERSONNEL REQUEST FOR MASS GATHERING – Bacon and Grobbel described the recent Planning Commission discussion regarding the possible need for personnel to staff some large events. The cost for such personnel would be included in the permit fee. There was consensus that the issue be returned to the Planning Commission for their recommendation.

SEPTIC POINT OF SALE ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT – It was noted that property transfer notification is an honor system as a County-wide ordinance does not exist. Grobbel will do some further research and report back.

GFL ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

A. NW MI INVASIVE SPECIES NETWORK GARLIC MUSTARD PROGRAM – **Motion by Bacon, support by Rademacher to approve paying GFL not to exceed \$530 for a 10-yard dumpster for disposal of garlic mustard available to village residents and to request \$200 reimbursement from NW MI Invasive Species Network.** Educational information on removal will be placed on the Village website and email blast will be sent. **ROLL CALL: Ayes: Bacon, Barr, Chase, Davis, Dye, Palmer, Rademacher. Nays: None. MOTION PASSED.**

B. VILLAGE TRASH PICK-UP DAY – Discussion included the cost and to conduct door to door pickup as it may be easier for most residents. There was consensus to gather more information and address in the next budget. Chase will do some further research.

BEACH AMBASSADOR HIRING AND JOB DESCRIPTION – Discussion included the age restriction in the job description. There was consensus that a 16-year-old could be hired (ideally working with an adult), and it will be added to the Regular Meeting Agenda. NMC, the high schools and the Lions Club will be contacted.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Support for continued use of beach ambassadors was encouraged as there was concern the bathrooms would not be maintained. South Bar Lake Association annual meeting will be held on July 23rd.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENT – Davies Resource Group will be hosting a tree workshop as part of the grant received. This will be held at the Township Hall on June 8th and further information will be emailed and on the website.

ADJOURNMENT at 8:41 p.m.

Derith Smith Empire Village Clerk

These are draft minutes for approval at the May 24, 2022, Regular Council meeting.